

REMARKS

Applicant would first like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to discuss the outstanding indefiniteness rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and the suggested claim amendments to overcome the indefiniteness rejection with Applicant's representative. During the telephone interview, Applicant's representative proposed eliminating the indefinite phrase "wholly or partially complementary" in step (a) and amending the claim language to more accurately define the invention. The Examiner indicated that the proposed claim amendment may be sufficient to overcome the rejection but recommended that Applicant submit a formal Preliminary Amendment so that the proposed claim language could be thoroughly reviewed.

1. Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

In the Advisory Action dated September 30, 2003, the Examiner indicated that Applicant's response filed on August 21, 2003 did not place the case in condition for allowance. In his comments, the Examiner stated that the use of the phrase "are wholly or partially complementary" was still indefinite and that claims 1-31 stand rejected. As noted above, Applicant's representative contacted the Examiner to discuss his comments in the Advisory Action and proposed amendments to the claims to overcome the rejection. The Examiner indicated that the use of the term "wholly or partially complementary" was confusing especially with respect to homologous strands. Applicant has now amended claim 1 to remove the objectionable phrase "wholly or partially complementary". In particular, Applicant has replaced the term "complementary" with the definition of the term found on page 9 of the Specification. Applicant believes that the changes made to the claim language have addressed the indefiniteness issues raised by the Examiner. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Abstract

Applicant has submitted a new Abstract which reflects the changes made in the claims to more clearly define the invention.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the claims is requested.

Serial No.: 09/708,497

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Leonard Svensson (Reg. No.: 30,330) the undersigned at (714) 708-8555.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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